AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please make the following amendments:

A. The following Amendment supercedes the amendment to page 7, after line 7 which was made at page 2 of the Preliminary dated January 24, 2002. The underlined additions represent changes from the previously submitted amendment and is added to bring the Specification into compliance with the Sequence Listing requirements. The remainder of this amendment is identical to the amendment made in the January 24, 2002 preliminary amendment.

At page 7, after line 7, please insert the following headings and four paragraphs:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1: HPLC profile of the Endo-Lys digest. The peptide sequence of fraction 8 is provided at SEQ ID NO:31 and the peptide sequence of fraction 15 is provided at SEQ ID NO:32.

Figure 2: Immunodot of HPLC fractions with 5 patients sera and 1 control serum.

Figure 3: Immunodot of the C-terminal peptide (C-term mod) and without (C-term nt mod) dimethylarginine, and of the recombinant (baculo SmD, coli SmD) and natural protein (native). Strips were incubated with an anti-SmD positive serum (+) and a control serum (-). Total protein staining (Aurodyne) was performed on the third strip.

Figure 4: LIA with modified (dimethyl arginine) C terminal peptide (fraction 15 from EndoLys-C digest, line 1 on the strip), and non-modified C terminal peptide (fraction 8 from the EndoLys-C digest, line 2 on the strip), both applied in equal amounts (60 ng). Additionally, 7, 15, and 30 ng of recombinant SmD1 from baculovirus- or E. Coli –infected insect cells (resp. 4, 5, 6 and 7, 8, 9) as well as 15 and 30 ng of a mixture of gel-purified SmD (native) were applied to the strips. The total protein staining (Aurodyne) was performed on the first strip. The strips were incubated with (A) a panel of anti-SmD positive sera selected by INNO-LIA ANA from ANF-positive sera, (B) a panel of anti-SmD positive sera selected by INNO-LIA ANA from a cohort of SLE patients diagnosed according to the ACR criteria, (C) sera selected from the MCTD patients (control

panel) and (D) sera selected from ANF-negative sera (control panel). No reactivity was observed with sera from the control panels.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

B. Please replace the prior Sequence Listing with the Substitute Sequence Listing enclosed herewith.